

Ayers Signs 1917 Contract With Bonus Clause—Martin Leaves Tomorrow

DOC AYERS SIGNS WITH GRIFF'S LADS

Big Pitcher Will Collect Bonus If He Proves To Be Successful.

MARTIN LEAVES FOR SOUTH

Mayor of Cherrydale Goes to Augusta to See That All Is Prepared.

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

Doc Ayers, the Hillsville hurler, today signed his contract to pitch for the Griffins during the 1917 campaign. He will be paid a handsome bonus if he lands a long string of victories.

Ayers hopped into town yesterday from his farm in Virginia. He looked ready to get down to work immediately, weighing but 185 pounds and having the clear eye that goes with perfect health.

Today he visited Manager Griffith at the club offices in the New Southern building, and for two hours or so they conversed regarding the contract. Ayers admits he has been given a cut in salary, but insists that he will make it up by collecting a bonus for winning ball games.

Looks For Success.

"With any kind of luck," said Ayers today, "I'll be one of Griff's winning pitchers. My broken thumb kept me on the bench last year just when I had begun to show at my best. Loafing put a lot of weight on me, and when I again was ready to pitch I was sluggish and slow."

"However, Mr. Griffith treated me handsomely, and I have no complaint to make. I only hope that I'll be in good condition when the season starts, for I shall then be one of the quartet to take my turn on the mound."

Ayers will remain in Washington until Wednesday, when he will leave for Augusta with the first squad.

Martin Leaves Tomorrow.

Washington's 1917 baseball season begins to stir tomorrow, when Mike Martin, mayor of Cherrydale, Va., departs for the training camp at Augusta, Ga. Next Wednesday two catchers and eight pitchers will leave the Capital, accompanied by a flock of war correspondents bent on keeping the fans informed of all the doings at the new camp.

Martin will arrive at Augusta Sunday, and will have all arrangements completed for the first squad of athletes to begin work the very day they arrive.

The first squad leaving Washington will include Henry and Ainsmith, catchers, and Ayers, Harper, Gallia, Shaw, Craft, Flaherty, Dumont, and Jamieson.

Reporting direct from their homes, Gharrity, Berry, and Humphreys are due to be at Augusta, March 1.

Nick Altrock, irrepressible coach and comedian, will also be at Augusta next week.

Yingling Won't Report.

Earl Yingling, the veteran southpaw obtained from Minneapolis, has positively resigned from activities on the diamond. He has notified Manager Griffith that he will not report.

The second squad of players will leave Washington Saturday, March 10. A number who live in the South and West will report direct from their homes, but there will be a goodly bunch gathered here to see the inauguration.

Greater interest than for several seasons is being shown in the Griffins this spring, many fans believing that the change from Charlottesville to Augusta will bring about excellent results.

Shorten Gets Raise.

"Click" Shorten, who may replace Tillie Walker in the Red Sox outfield this season, has signed at an increased salary.

When brought back from Newark last year Shorten was told by Joe Lannin that if he made good and helped win the championship his salary would be doubled.

Frazee bought the club from Lannin, and Shorten, who had only a verbal agreement with Lannin, found himself subjected to a cut instead of an increase. He went to New York, conferred with his new boss, and obtained a handsome raise.

WILL SEE THREE

Philadelphia to Entertain Sons of Former Presidents.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—Before the winter season ends, three sons of former Chief Executives of the United States will have entered athletic competition in Philadelphia. Last Saturday night Capt. Charley Taft, son of the smiling ex-President, and Newell Garfield, grandson of the martyr, helped to puncture Penn's basketball aspirations.

On March 3, Dick Cleveland, son of Governor Cleveland, will represent Princeton in the indoor intercollegiate at Exhibition Hall. Since matriculating at the New Jersey university young Cleveland has earned the distinction of being the most talked-of college student in the world. His agitation against the Tiger eating club system has revolutionized the social system at the Orange and Black.

KILLS BOXING BILL.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 23.—By a vote of 48 to 47 the State legislature defeated an effort to legalize boxing before licensed clubs. Gene Melady, a well-known sport promoter of Omaha, prepared the bill, which was considered the best ever introduced. It called for ten-round bouts.

STECHER TRIUMPHANT.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 23.—Joe Stecher, of Nebraska, defeated Ad Santol, the coast champion, in two straight falls. A body eczema and double wrist lock brought the first fall in 28:17, while a double wrist lock gave Stecher the second in 11:54.

Times' All-High Players Taken From Three Fives

Technical, Central and Business Representatives Thought Best In High School League Basketball Series This Year.

The Times All-High School basketball team for the past season contains two Central, two Technical and one Business player. Those selected for the honor team are Forrest Daly, of Central, and Ralph Wise, of Business, forwards; Roland Tabb, Technical, center; and Jasper Long, of Central, and David Pfeiffer, Technical, guards.

On the second five are found Catlin, of Tech in left forward; Solomon, of Central, right forward; Chamberlaine, of Western, center; with Schneider, of Technical, and Cummings, of Eastern, guards.

Strong On Offense.

The selection of the five players for the first team gives the best scoring combination on the floor, in the High School League, from the records compiled. Daly, Tabb and Wise were the leaders in point scoring, while Long was the best offensive and defensive guard in the series.

Pfeiffer played a stand guard position and cut down the opposition at all times, having fewer baskets scored against him than any other guard in the eight games played.

Many Good Players.

There were many good players in the series. Among the forwards Daly, Solomon, Thomas, Johnstone and Catlin were best as floor coverers. Ralph Wise, of Business, proved to be the greatest opportunist in the series. Wise was adept in following up shots and in getting in after others on his team had failed to cage the ball.

Tabb was alternated at forward

MAHAN WILL PITCH

Crescent A. C. Will Have Him, While Professionals Lose.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Eddie Mahan, football and baseball star of Harvard, will pitch for the Crescent Athletic Club nine this summer. It became known yesterday that arrangements for Mahan's admission into the club and his joining the baseball team had been completed and that Mahan will soon establish himself in this city.

Mahan's decision to play with the Crescents means that he has decided to refuse the many offers of professional ball clubs, the Yankees and the Red Sox among them. It is apparent that the Harvard luminary has settled on an athletic life in an amateur atmosphere. He is open for a football coaching position in some college, and if recent reports are correct there is considerable likelihood of his being engaged by Columbia.

GENNERT GETS CUP

Princeton Football Center Receives First Poe Trophy.

PRINCETON, N. J., Feb. 23.—Immediately following his address at the alumni exercises here yesterday Edgar Allen Poe, a former Princeton football star, presented the Poe memorial cup to Alfred G. Gennert, of Elizabeth, N. J.

This cup was presented this year for the first time by Poe as a tribute to Johnny Poe, and will be given each year to "that member of the football team who in addition to proving himself a player of ability has shown the finest moral character."

Gennert has played center on the Tiger eleven for the past three years. He will help coach the freshmen football team here next fall.

FEARS NO HOSTILITIES

New York State League Would Play Regardless of War.

SCRANTON, Pa., Feb. 23.—The possibility of a war with Germany does not scare the New York State League, according to an announcement made to a local baseball writer today by President Farrell.

The New York State League held a meeting last week celebrating its twentieth anniversary, the only minor league in the country that has gone through twenty consecutive seasons, and Farrell says it will go through another.

There have never been better prospects for the league than are in sight for the 1917 campaign, and the tireless ruler says that even in the event of war and the consequent decline in interest he feels sure that the State League park will be able to weather the storm. In fact, when questioned as to what course the league would take in the event of hostilities with Germany, Farrell unhesitatingly declared: "It has not even been considered."

PAYS \$5,000 FOR DOG.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—A Pekingese was sold yesterday at the dog show in Madison Square Garden for \$5,000. William Ziegler refused an offer of \$6,000 by Raymond Belmont, son of August Belmont, for Mary Montrose, an English pointer.

The Pekingese was Nowata Swimley, Li Lien, three and a half years old, owned by Mrs. M. E. Harby, who sold the tiny creature to Mrs. A. L. Holland, of this city. It was a record.

M'GRAW UNDER WAY TO TRAINING CAMP

Rookies, With a Few Veterans, Accompany "Little Corporal" on Trip.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Regarded as better fortified than ever in his baseball history, John McGraw, manager of the Giants, boarded a train here today and started to Marlin, Tex., with a gang of rookies and a few veterans. They will begin training immediately.

New York is all worked up over the chances of the Giants. A brand new infield with the exception of Arthur Fletcher, will be drilled together in the Texas climate. New pitchers will be on tap, and a new catcher, Lew McCarty, probably will bear the brunt of catching.

The psychological possibilities of such a baseball club are gumming up the mathematical brains of all the dopsters in New York. In the first place, history takes an awful wallop at the team when it chortles and points out that the Giants last summer won seventeen ball games in a row, and then tried to make a world's record for losing them.

Make Great Record.

Then along came fall and the Giants with some young blood pepping things up, whacked off a list of twenty-six straight, thereby establishing a major league record for consecutive games won. They wound up the season by ingloriously bowing to the Brooklyn club and being charged by John McGraw with kicking one.

It is the same team that finished the season last fall that will take the field this spring. Stellar performers and very little of the veteran class is included in its make-up. McGraw has the most remarkable young pitcher in the business in young Freddie Schupp, and he has a remarkable young catcher in Lew McCarty. Also, Benny Kauff is expected to do better, and the entire infield is backed to show the National League some new tricks.

These Left Today.

In the party that left today were Rube Benton, Walter Holke, Bill Ritter, Jimmy Middleton, William Mor-

issette, George Sandberg, Sterling Stryker, Pie Way, Waite Hoyt, Fred Schupp, George Smith, Lew McCarty, Bradley Kocher, Benny Kauff, Al Schacht, Joe Wagner, J. G. Josephson. These will report Sunday at Marlin, going direct from their homes: George Kelly, C. A. Causey, Ernest Krueger, Jim Thorpe, Ross Young, Jose Rodriguez, Peter Kilduff, L. A. Jaynes, Hans Robert, A. W. Baird, Zake Lohman.

MANY DOGS ENTER

Philadelphia Kennel Show Will Break All Its Records.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23.—At a meeting of the bench show committee of the Kennel Club of Philadelphia, held yesterday, it was announced by Superintendent George F. Foley that the actual number of dogs entered the for the annual show to be held in Horticultural Hall, Monday and Tuesday, February 26 and 27, had aggregated a total of 761 dogs, the largest number ever benches at a local show.

Practically all the leading kennels in the country are listed, while several of the Canadian dogs are coming here to vie for the many trophies, cups, and ribbons, together with the money prizes offered for competition.

GREEN PICKS LADS

Four Tome School Athletes Appear in Baltimore Meet.

PORT DEPOSIT, Md., Feb. 23.—George Green, Tome School's coach has selected four athletes to compete in the Johns Hopkins indoor meet tomorrow. He is disappointed at his inability to send more than this number, but the rest of the string is being kept here for the George Washington birthday festivities.

Walter Goldsmith, of Newark, N. J., who captured two firsts at the Georgetown meet; William Laasen, of Wichita, Kan., a promising novice; and Albert and Bruce Clark, of Galveston, Tex., make up the Tome quartet to go to Baltimore.

GALLAUDET BEATEN

Loses to Travelers' Quint at Hartford, Conn.

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 23.—Gallaudet College, of Washington, received a trimming from the Travelers' quint here last night, 45 to 38, but not until after a tough struggle.

Although the local team held an advantage throughout the contest the visitors were never out of striking distance, and made a game effort to come from behind toward the end. Wilman, of Gallaudet, made many sensational shots.

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